

ROUTE
COUNTY COUNCIL OF BERWICK



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Health and Sanitary Condition
of the County

ANDREW A. MCWHAN.

M.B., B.Sc. D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR 1938.

PRINTED

BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BERWICK
AT BERWICK

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To the Department of Health for Scotland and to the
County Council of Berwick.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

In conformity with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, Section 53, the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, Section 15, and the Regulations of the Scottish Department of Health, I have the honour to submit the various reports called for. The delay in their transmission is regretted, but is unavoidable.

I am,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ANDREW A. McWHAN.

County Offices,

Duns,

13th *January*, 1910.

LIST OF STAFF.

County Medical Officer of Health and Administrative Officer—

ANDREW ALEXANDER McWHAN, M.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

*Assistant Medical Officer (part time)—*Barbara Edgecombe.
M.B., Ch.B. Appointed 16th May, 1938.

*Consulting Oculist—*William Sym, M.D. Died 19th January.
1938.

George I. Scott, M.B., Ch.B. Appointed 15th February.
1938.

*Consulting Aurist—*John Davis Lithgow, M.B., C.M.,
F.R.C.S.

*Consulting Medico Psychologist—*Patrick Steele, M.D.,
F.R.C.P.

*Dental Surgeon (part time)—*Frank G. Mackenzie, L.D.S.

*Health Visitor (Eastern area)—*Jeanie McIntosh.
(Western area)—Vacant.

*County Hospital—*Physician, Lachlan G. Campbell, M.B.,
Ch.B.

Matron, Mary Ewing.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector—*John Coupland. Resigned 15th
May, 1938.

*Engineer—*Wm. Knox. Appointed 15th April, 1938.

*Sanitary Inspectors—*George Mark.
George Craig.

*Clerks—*Margaret Turner.

Jean Walker. Resigned 15th December, 1938.

Mary Darling.

Sirrel Wood. Appointed 18th July, 1938.

VITAL STATISTICS.

AREA.—The area of Berwickshire, exclusive of the Burghs, is 291,732 acres. East District, 78,043 acres ; Middle District, 109,108 acres ; West District, 104,581 acres. The acreage of the Burghs is 803 ; so that the total acreage of the County is 292,535 acres, or 457.08 square miles.

POPULATION.—The population of the County, including the Burghs, as estimated by the Registrar-General to the middle of 1938, was 26,295.

COUNTY AND BURGHAL POPULATIONS OF 1938 AND PREVIOUS CENSUS YEARS.

	Burgh of Cold- stream.	Burgh of Duns.	Burgh of Eye- mouth.	Burgh of Lauder.	Land- ward.	County Total.
Census Population 1911	1,375	2,069	2,453	659	23,087	29,643
Census Population 1921	1,295	1,868	2,477	759	21,996	28,395
Census Population 1931	1,232	1,807	2,246	623	20,610	26,518
Estimated Population to middle of 1938 (Registrar General's estimate)	1,222	1,874	2,196	621	20,382	26,295

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES and DEATHS for Year 1938.

IN BURGHS AND LANDWARD AREA.

			Cold- stream Burgh.	Duns Burgh.	Eye- mouth Burgh.	Lauder Burgh.	Land- ward.
Total Births Registered (including Illegitimate)			13	58	25	4	190
Total Births Corrected (including Illegitimate)			14	31	26	4	253
Total Births Corrected Male ..	..	..	8	16	12	2	133
" " " Female ..	..	..	6	15	14	2	120
" " " Illegitimate ..	..	..	—	2	3	—	25
Marriages Registered ..	..	..	11	20	14	4	92
Deaths Registered ..	..	..	21	31	17	12	225
Deaths Corrected ..	..	..	22	33	20	15	296
" " Male ..	..	..	13	14	8	8	149
" " Female ..	..	..	9	19	12	7	147

IN ENTIRE COUNTY.

	Number Registered in Entire County.	Transfers		Corrected No.			Rate per 1000 of estimated population (both sexes)	Corr pond Rate Scotl for 1
		Out	In	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.		
Total Births (including illegitimate) ...	290	36	74	328	171	157	12.5	
Total Births, illegitimate	19	1	12	30	15	15	*9.1	
Marriages ...	141	—	—	—	—	—	5.4	
Deaths—All Causes ...	306	13	93	386	192	194	†14.7	
Tuberculosis (All Forms)	—	—	—	8	2	6	0.30	
,, (Respiratory System)	—	—	—	4	1	3	0.15	
Principal Epidemic Diseases ...	—	—	—	4	4	0	0.15	
Children aged under one year ...	—	—	—	18	14	4	†55.	

*Rate per 100 Births.

†Rate per 1000 Births.

‡Rate adjusted for Age and Sex Distribution—12.5.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TO VACCINATION. These numbered 66, a rate of 22 per 100 births.

In no case did the machinery of the Vaccination Acts require to be put into operation.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table is a general summary of deaths, corrected for transfers, showing ages at death :—

Causes of Death.	All Ages	Age Groups.											
		-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85+
Typhoid fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other epidemic diseases* ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Other tuberculous diseases ..	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease ..	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	11	14	11	1
Diabetes mellitus	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	3	—
Other general diseases ; chronic poisonings	12	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	6	—	—
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ..	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	16	17	3
Other diseases of nervous system and sense organs ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	1
Heart disease	93	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	10	24	34	14
Other circulatory diseases ..	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	7	5
Bronchitis	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	6	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	16	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	4	4	2	2	—

*Including typhus fever, smallpox, dysentery, erysipelas, acute poliomyelitis, and lethargic encephalitis.

Causes of Death.	All Ages	Age Groups.											
		-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85-
Other respiratory diseases ..	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Gastric and duodenal ulcer ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
Diarrhœa, etc. (all ages) ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Appendicitis	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Cirrhosis of liver	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Other diseases of liver, etc. ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	—
Other digestive diseases ..	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—
Acute and chronic nephritis	24	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	5	7	2	3
Other diseases of genito- urinary system	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	3
Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other puerperal causes ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of skin and locomotor system	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital debility, prema- ture birth, malformations, etc.	14	13	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Old Age	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	6
Suicide	6	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	—
Other violence	13	1	—	3	—	2	—	1	—	—	3	2	1
Causes ill-defined or unknown	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	2	1
All causes	386	18	4	4	—	7	4	13	33	57	102	101	43

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths under one year numbered 18, and are classified according to age-group and cause of death as follows :—

	1 week under 1 week.	1 week and under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 1 year.	Total Cases.
Pneumonia, all forms	1	—	—	—	1	2
Other respiratory dis- eases	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth ..	8	1	—	—	1	10
Other defined diseases	2	3	—	—	1	6
	11	4	—	—	3	18

BIRTHS, DEATHS, Etc., for COUNTY of BERWICK
SINCE 1871.

			Population.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.	Births.	Deaths.	School Rolls.
1871	(Census year)	..	36,382	30.59	1,113	591	--
1881	(Census year)	..	35,382	28.43	1,006	701	--
1891	(Census year)	..	32,311	24.20	782	617	—
1901	(Census year)	..	30,824	22.51	694	456	—
1911	(Census year)	..	29,643	19.66	580	381	--
1912	.. ..	..	—	20.04	582	417	4,885
1913	.. ..	..	—	18.95	537	413	—
1914	.. ..	..	—	18.63	519	407	—
1915	.. ..	..	—	18.3	506	431	—
1916	.. ..	..	—	18.5	509	367	—
1917	.. ..	..	—	15.1	413	347	—
1918	.. ..	..	—	16.5	452	411	—
1919	.. ..	..	—	16.8	453	420	—
1920	.. ..	..	—	21.1	601	339	4,550
1921	(Census year)	..	28,395	19.3	549	412	4,280
1922	.. ..	..	—	17.9	502	413	4,253
1923	.. ..	..	—	17.9	492	332	4,140
1924	.. ..	..	—	19.3	519	387	4,063
1925	.. ..	..	—	18.0	489	367	4,039
1926	.. ..	..	—	17.5	472	346	4,036
1927	.. ..	..	—	16.4	437	391	4,041
1928	.. ..	..	—	16.4	429	392	3,981
1929	.. ..	..	—	16.1	432	397	3,958
1930	.. ..	..	—	15.0	403	389	3,923
1931	(Census year)	..	26,518	13.9	368	401	3,950
1932	.. ..	..	—	12.8	342	330	3,973
1933	.. ..	..	—	13.4	357	360	3,947
1934	.. ..	..	—	13.3	357	347	3,905
1935	.. ..	..	—	11.9	320	357	3,737
1936	.. ..	..	—	11.8	314	366	3,682
1937	.. ..	..	—	12.6	332	373	3,625
1938	.. ..	..	—	12.5	328	386	3,433

For the fourth year in succession the number of births in Berwickshire was exceeded by the deaths, and Berwickshire is not now replacing its own numbers.

At the same time the age distribution of its population is changing. The number of young people and their proportion in the population is steadily falling: the proportion

of older people is steadily increasing. As I reported as long ago as 1911. Berwickshire is an ageing county.

These trends will inevitably continue and will not be appreciably affected by an arrest of the falling birth rate or even by its increase. Nothing can compensate for the fact that only 328 potential parents of the future were registered in Berwickshire this year.

Compensation for the outward migration noted in my last report is also, so far as can be seen, not possible. Had these people remained in the County they would have accounted for approximately an additional 100 births per annum.

ADMINISTRATION.

By the Local Government Act of 1929, schemes that were formerly the concern of some 58 other authorities and committees, such as the administration of infectious disease hospitals, veterinary inspection of dairy cattle, vaccination, medical relief, water supply, housing, dairy and meat inspection and mental deficiency, were transferred to the Council's Public Health Department. That Department was just managing to shake itself down to the added responsibilities, but in 1938, with the additional schemes put forward under the housing acts, with the constant additions in connection with new Regulations and Orders, the drafting of a Maternity Services Scheme and the extension of the school medical scheme, it was obvious that the time had passed when the department could take over new undertakings *ad lib.*, and that although I had postponed the necessity for further help in every possible way, what had proved impossible elsewhere could not prove possible here, and that not only changes but also staff additions would be necessary if the duties were to be carried through at all.

As regards the changes, Mr. Coupland, the doyen of the Council's staff, who commenced his career as a sanitary inspector for the County as far back as 22nd March, 1909, and had by degrees taken over responsibilities diverse

enough to have taxed the skill of an architect, engineer, pathologist and dairy expert, had intimated his intention to resign. To have appointed a successor with the same diversity of functions would have been fair neither to the Council nor to the official, and, accordingly, I advised a clean cut between duties requiring architectural and engineering knowledge and duties such as meat inspection and dairy supervision, and suggested that Mr. Coupland be replaced, not by a sanitary inspector, but by an architect or preferably an engineer, and that for sanitary duties the County should be divided into two areas as in the case of the Health Visitors, each area to be served by a sanitary inspector holding a meat inspector's certificate, and preferably with some real knowledge of dairy work.

A change was also advised in the case of the vacancy for a health visitor in the western area, occasioned by the resignation of Miss Tait in December, 1937. As under the Maternity Services Scheme the nurses in the County then acting as maternity nurses would become midwives, a supervisor of midwives would be required by the Midwives Act, and it was accordingly decided to postpone any appointment as Health Visitor until the maternity services scheme was officially approved by the Department of Health, when the vacancy could be filled by a Health Visitor who would, in addition, possess the qualifications (stipulated by the Department of Health) to enable her to act as Inspector of Midwives.

In the interval Miss McIntosh was to carry out, as best she could, school nurse's duties, nurse attendant to specialist and health visitor so far as the most essential items were concerned.

Owing to the extension of the school health scheme much more medical assistance was required than formerly, and the appointment of a part-time medical officer was advised.

These suggestions were adopted and approved by the Department where necessary. Dr. Barbara Edgecombe was appointed part-time medical officer: Mr. William Knox commenced duties as engineer on the 15th April, 1938:

Messrs. Mark and Craig, assistant sanitary inspectors, were formally appointed district sanitary inspectors as from 15th May, 1938.

As regards veterinary services, from 1st April of this year the functions of the veterinary inspectors appointed by local authorities under the Diseases of Animals Acts and the enactments relating to milk and dairies were transferred to veterinary inspectors appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. No veterinary report is therefore submitted.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Reports on water supplies, drainage schemes, and other measures of sanitary interest, will be found in the Engineer's and Sanitary Inspector's Reports.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

In consequence of a report forwarded to the Department of Health regarding the condition of the River Whitadder, a special report was submitted to the Local Authority and the Department of Health.

Owing to the difficulty in verifying complaints regarding this pollution, the Berwick and District Angling Association were asked to send me daily records of the condition of the water, and they were furnished with a Winchester quart bottle in which a sample could be taken by the river watcher whenever he thought the water was particularly dirty.

Complaints were made as to the condition of the water, but only one sample was taken on which the County Analyst reported :—" The sample, although not so pure as a water intended for dietetic use should be, showed no evidence of contamination which would be harmful to fish life."

Close observation was kept on the working of the sedimentation tanks at Chirnside Mill and in addition special visits were paid by an engineer of the Department of Health and an inspector from the Fishery Board.

No complaints were made during the year as to the condition of the Leader.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

1.—HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1925 to 1935, and HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS, 1926 and 1931.

(a) *Sufficiency of Working Class Houses.*

NUMBER OF HOUSES BUILT OR RECONSTRUCTED UNDER VARIOUS HOUSING ACTS TO END OF 1938.

	Housing (Rural Workers) Act 1926.	Housing (Scot- land) Act, 1919.	Housing (Scot- land) Act, 1923- 1924.	Housing (Scot- land) Act, 1930.	Housing (Scot- land) Act, 1935.	Private Enter- prise.	Total.
Landward Part of Berwick (excluding Burghs) ..	780	4	156	75	12	95	1,122
Lauder Burgh	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Duns Burgh ..	4	8	60	44	20	1	137
Eyemouth Burgh	—	18	58	73	15	14	178
Coldstream Burgh ..	5	12	38	16	12	1	84
Totals ..	789	42	312	208	59	117	1,527

The total number of occupied private houses at the 1931 Census was 7,138, so that almost one-fifth of the total number of houses in the County have either been built or reconstructed since 1919.

Saturation point in habitable houses, however, is not yet reached, and more people require to be re-housed or housed than those whose present houses can either be condemned or certified as overcrowded, those in lodgings and rooms for instance.

(b) *Action to deal with Defective or Uninhabitable Houses.*

During the year I represented 54 houses under Section 16 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1930, as being unfit for human habitation and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit. Action was taken by the Local Authority in every case.

The standards taken are those published by the Department of Health in their memorandum of 26th December, 1934.

Of these houses represented, the principal major defects were excessive dampness, inadequate lighting and ventilation, no indoor water supply, insufficient drainage and defective sanitary accommodation.

(c) *Clearance or Redevelopment Areas under the Housing (Scotland) Acts, 1930 and 1935—proposals under consideration or contemplated.*

No Clearance or Redevelopment Areas are proposed.

(d) *Overcrowding—action taken.*

Overcrowding.—As a result of action taken by the local authority, the number of cases of overcrowding relieved was 32, and the number of persons relieved 238 to the end of the year. Of the 32 houses concerned, three were three-apartment houses owned by the local authority: while of the privately-owned houses, eight were one-apartment houses, 17 were two-apartment houses, and four were three-apartment houses.

The decrease in the birth rate which has been so marked a feature in this county is rendering overcrowding more infrequent, but the large families one occasionally comes across are always a source of difficulty.

Building Byelaws.—The model building byelaws of the Department of Health, adopted by the County Council in 1937, were approved by the Department of Health and put into operation early in the year.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926-38.—A further scheme under these acts, in aid of the reconstruction of houses or buildings for occupation by agricultural workers or persons with a similar economic status, was provided and approved during the year.

Particulars of applications under that scheme, and also of applications for the building of new houses, will be found in the Engineer's report.

Scottish Housing Advisory Committee.—An enquiry was carried out to consider the operation of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1935, on the question of rehousing aged

persons, and in particular of aged married couples who were living in insanitary or overcrowded houses.

In the questionnaire sent to the Committee it was pointed out that the rehousing of aged persons and aged married couples was prevented or delayed by the fact that they could not be transferred to Council houses because these houses were too large and the rents too high, and in the opinion of the Public Health Committee it was necessary to provide new accommodation specially for aged people in the shape of one- or two-apartment houses with water and water closets within the houses, and gardens kept as small as possible.

Accompanying the questionnaire of the Committee was a statement regarding the housing conditions of aged persons living in Chirnside, specially prepared by the District Nurse (Nurse Dowie). Her statement made it quite clear that aged persons not only could not be transferred to Council houses because the houses were too large and the rents too high, but that actually they were not able to pay more rent than sufficed for a house unfit for habitation, so that a further requirement in the housing of aged persons would be rents low enough for old age pensioners to pay. Particulars were given in her reply of 14 aged householders of whom no fewer than 11 were widows, the remaining 3 being married couples. Old age pensioners numbered 12. Of their houses 9 were one roomed houses and 5 were two roomed houses, of which 10 were definitely unfit for habitation. In one case the tenant was a cripple; the house had an outside stone stair so that the tenant could not get outside and in any case could not get the benefit of the sun at the door as it faced north.

A further plea for small two apartment houses was made during the year by the Rev. Robert Hamilton, of Burnmouth, who pointed out that out of 27 three-apartment houses which the County Council had built in Burnmouth there were no fewer than 12 instances in which a two apartment house would serve the purpose, mainly because the houses were occupied either by one or two people

often in receipt of old age pension or public assistance. He was of opinion that out of 28 families still to be dealt with in Burnmouth 10 could be suitably accommodated in two-apartment dwellings. If consideration be given to the vital statistics for the County as evidenced by the table of births, deaths, etc., on page 10, then in any future housing schemes it is obvious that a much greater proportion of houses will require to be one or two apartment houses if only to accommodate the increasing number of old people who simply cannot afford the rent of a habitable house or a house which, by reason of its size, its lay-out, or garden, is unmanageable.

Miscellaneous. Official notices were served on five proprietors under Section 40 of the Housing and Town Planning (Scotland) Act, 1914, with no inside water supplies in the case of 16 cottages and under Section 20 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1925, on three proprietors in the case of 10 cottages with no inside water closets.

At the instance of the Department of Health a number of inspections were made owing to complaints regarding water supplies or other conditions affecting farm cottages.

FOOD SUPPLY.

1.—MILK—ADMINISTRATION OF ACTS, ORDERS AND REGULATIONS.

(a) *Bacteriological examination of samples in terms of Sections 20 and 21 of the 1914 Act—arrangements made—notes on samples taken.*

During the year 22 samples of milk were sent or taken to Edinburgh for bacteriological examination. Eighteen were samples of graded milk and four were samples of ungraded milk. In the case of the graded samples the bacterial counts varied from "too few to count" to 3,768,000 per e.c. B. Coli were present in ten samples.

In two cases living tubercle bacilli were found in samples of milk taken for biological examination in other areas, from milk consigned to those areas from Berwickshire. Examination of the cows in one herd showed one cow to be in the last stages of pulmonary tuberculosis. A post-mortem revealed that it was literally riddled with the disease. Milk from this dairy was supplied to a number of children who showed glandular enlargements, possibly of a tuberculous nature, and the need for health education was made very apparent by the dairyman being rather surprised at the fuss that was made, and asking what a tubercle bacillus was. In the case of the dairy from which the other infected milk was supplied, group testing proved negative and the inference was that the affected cow had been got rid of.

(b) *Milk consigned from other areas—action taken.*

No milk is consigned from other areas to Berwickshire.

(c) *Dirty milk (Section 4 (3) of 1914 Act) measures for detection.*

The only measures for the detection of dirty milk are those given in paragraph (a).

(d) *Outbreaks of disease attributed to milk or milk products.*

There was no outbreak of disease attributable to milk or milk products except in the usual notifications of tuberculous disease.

(e) *Extent to which Sections 13 and 14 of 1914 Act are being complied with.*

Section 13 of the Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914, makes it an offence to sell, offer or keep for sale, milk from any cow suffering from tuberculous emaciation, sores on teats accompanied by suppuration or bleeding, or from any disease liable to infect or contaminate the milk, while Section 14 requires that every dairyman who has in his dairy any cow which appears to be suffering from any sore on the teats accompanied by suppuration or bleeding or from any disease liable to infect or contaminate the milk, or any cow which, to his knowledge, is giving tuberculous milk, shall forthwith give written notice to the local authority and shall state the situation of the dairy. So far as I am aware these sections are being complied with.

(f) *Disposal of Milk from Diseased Cows.*

Since veterinary inspection of dairy herds was taken over by the Government, all cows in registered dairies are examined four times a year, and in exempted premises twice a year. If any cows are suspected of tuberculosis Form A under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938 is served by the veterinary surgeon, and farmers are warned that infected milk must either be poured down the drain or, if they wish to use it for feeding calves and pigs, must first be thoroughly boiled. Between the veterinary surgeon's visits, cows suspected of these conditions are reported to the police who issue Form A and take the necessary subsequent steps.

(g) *Progress of Milk Grading under the Milk (Special Designations) Order.*

Number of Licences issued during year ended 31st December, 1938.

<i>Grade.</i>	<i>Producers.</i>	<i>Dealers.</i>
Certified	2	2
Tuberculin Tested	1	—
Standard	1	1

(h) *No arrangements exist in the area for pasteurising milk.*

2.—MEAT ADMINISTRATION OF SECTIONS 33 AND 43
OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897,
THE PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT REGULATIONS
(SCOTLAND), 1932, AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH
(PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD) REGULATIONS.

Meat inspection was carried out at the slaughterhouse by Mr. Mark and in Eyemouth Burgh by the Burgh Sanitary Inspector who had been previously appointed as an assistant County Sanitary Inspector *qua* transferred services.

In connection with a complaint by the Duns Town Council that a carcase had been left lying outside the slaughterhouse, the Public Health Committee expressed regret for the occurrence, and in view of the fact that there was a dual control in connection with the slaughterhouse, namely, that the Town Council were the local authority as regards the slaughterhouse and the County Council were the local authority with regard to meat inspection, they referred the matter of regulating the hours of slaughtering and the inspection of meat therein to the Department of Health.

3.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Of four samples of Ice Cream sent for bacteriological examination, bacterial counts varied from 30,400 to 2,728,000 per c.c., while *B. coli* was present in one of the samples. It has now been possible under the Milk-in-Schools Scheme to supply milk to approximately 830 children in 15 schools out of the 50 in the County.

D.—MEDICAL SERVICES.

1 & 2.—MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE.

1.—BIRTHS.

(a)	<i>Number registered</i>	(i) legitimate	..	..	290
		(ii) illegitimate	..	..	19
(b)	<i>Number notified</i>	..	..	..	279
(c)	<i>Number attended by midwives alone</i>	..			0
(d)	<i>Number of still births</i>	..	..	..	3

2.—INFANTILE MORTALITY.

(a)	<i>Number of deaths</i>	..	..	..	..	18
(b)	<i>Rate per 1,000 births</i>	..	..	..	..	62.07
(c)	<i>Number of deaths and rates per 1,000 births classified according to age groups and causes of death :—</i>					

3.—MATERNAL MORTALITY.

(a)	<i>Number of deaths resulting from miscarriage or childbirth</i>	..	..	..	..	—
(b)	<i>Number of deaths resulting from puerperal sepsis</i>	..	..	..	..	—

4.—REPORT UNDER MIDWIVES' (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.

There are no registered midwives practising in the County.

5.—HOME VISITATION.

	Number Visited.	Total Visits.
Infants	265	2,638
Children (1-5 years) ..	518	1,406
Expectant mothers ..	265	875
Total	1,048	4,919

6.—VOLUNTARY HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT.

There are no voluntary health visitors.

7-10.—CLINICS AND SPECIAL TREATMENT CENTRES.

There are no clinics or special treatment centres in the County, although children under 5 years may be sent to schools for examination by the School Oculist. Generally, however, they are sent to Berwick. During the year seven children were examined by Dr. Scott.

11.—DAY NURSERIES, KINDERGARTENS, AND PLAY CENTRES.

There are none in the County.

12.—FOOD AND MILK.

During the year 32 families comprising 4 expectant or nursing mothers, and 52 children under the age of 5 years, received food and milk; 17 being resident in Eyemouth; 2 in the West District; 8 in the Middle District; 4 in the East District; and 1 in Duns Burgh.

Mothers. Children.

<i>Number of persons supplied with liquid milk, dried milk, milk substitutes and other food preparations</i>	32	52
--	----	----	----	----	----

Liquid Milk :—

Total quantity supplied (galls)	187	1,104
Certified or T.T.	..	..
Ordinary	187	1,104

Mothers. Children.

Other Food Preparations :—

Malt	..	..	..	—	3
Haliverol	..	..	..	—	1
Cost to Local Authority	..	..	£132	4	11
Haliverol	..	..	1	8	0
Malt	..	..	0	12	6

All the above recipients were certified on medical grounds as requiring food and milk and as necessitous.

13-14.—MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

- (a) These diseases are not notifiable in the County.
- (b) *Number of deaths* :—Measles 0 ; Whooping Cough 1.
- (c) *Number of cases removed to hospital* :—5 cases were removed to hospital for pneumonia, bronchitis or retarded convalescence, complications.
- (d) Domiciliary visits were paid by Health Visitors as required.
- (e) No special staff for epidemics was required.

15.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases.

16.—MATERNITY HOSPITALS OR HOMES.

19 cases were sent to the Royal Maternity Hospital.

- (1) Of these 14 were pre-natal cases :—
 - 4 for albuminuria or pre-eclamptic toxæmia.
 - 10 for bad home conditions.
- (2) One was for termination of pregnancy.
- (3) One was for abnormal confinement.

Four had instrumental delivery, and three were on account of placenta prævia.

17.—HOMES FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS BEFORE AND AFTER CONFINEMENT.

One case was sent to the Haig Ferguson Memorial Home, Edinburgh.

18.—HOSPITALS FOR SICK CHILDREN.

- (a) *Number of admissions.*

To Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh	2
To Sick Children's Hospital, Edinburgh	5

(b) The two cases to the Royal Infirmary were for adenoids and dermatitis; of the five cases to the Sick Children's Hospital, one was for adenoids, two for cleft palate, one for spina bifida and one for acute abscess of the left leg.

19-21.—CONVALESCENT HOMES, BOARDING OUT, HOME HELPS.

Children requiring convalescent treatment are sent to the County Hospital; no arrangements are made for boarding-out or for home helps.

22.—EDUCATIONAL.

No classes are held, nor are lectures or demonstrations given.

24.—PUBLIC HEALTH (NOTIFICATION OF PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA) REGULATIONS (SCOTLAND) 1929.

<i>Total number of cases of (a) puerperal fever</i>	..	--
(b) puerperal pyrexia		1
<i>Total number of cases removed to City Hospital, Edinburgh, for (a) puerperal fever</i>	..	--
(b) puerperal pyrexia	..	1
<i>Number of deaths</i>	.. .. .	—
<i>Number of cases in which Local Authority provided</i>		
(i) Consultant Service	.. ..	--
(ii) Bacteriological Examination	..	—
(iii) Skilled Nursing at home	..	—
(iv) Hospital Treatment	.. ..	1

25.—OTHER PROVISIONS.

(e.g.—*Treatment of pneumonia and bronchitis; after care of cases of poliomyelitis anterior acuta*).

No help was required.

MATERNITY SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1937.

During the year a scheme was drafted as required by this act, approved by the County Council and submitted to the Department of Health.

The scheme makes available to women who are to be confined in their own homes and who apply for the service, a cheap and efficient maternity service scheme, based on

the joint care through pregnancy, labour and the puerperium, of a midwife and a doctor with, when necessary, the services of an obstetrician and anaesthetist and, in addition, removal to a maternity hospital such as the Royal Maternity Hospital or the Elsie Inglis Hospital in Edinburgh, if that should be found necessary.

These services will be given without charge to women who are themselves or whose husbands are in receipt of unemployment assistance or Public Assistance. In the case of a woman who is insured or is the wife of an insured man of similar economic status, the charge will be 30 -. If over that grade the charge will be £4, which may be reduced if necessary, and from all charges will be deducted the amount of any annual subscription paid to a voluntary nursing association of which the woman is a member.

The proposals in the scheme included arrangements with all district nursing associations within and without the County for the employment of their district nurses as midwives; for the appointment of a district midwife for the West District; with the medical practitioners for medical services; and with a panel of obstetricians in Edinburgh for obstetric services. Organisations which required to be consulted under the act included the Berwickshire Nursing Association, the B.M.A., and the obstetric staffs of the Royal Maternity Hospital and the Elsie Inglis Hospital in Edinburgh.

The cost of the scheme was estimated at £1,550, or, after deduction of estimated receipts of £360, £1,190 before payment of Government grant.

4. SCHOOL CHILDREN—MEDICAL INSPECTION, SUPERVISION AND TREATMENT.

Because of the additional time required by the extension of the school health scheme and its co-ordination with post school health services, as required by circulars of the Department of Health (N.M. & C. No. 56, 59 and 60 1938), and by the National Health Insurance and Factory Acts of 1937, it is not possible to give in this report the statistical

statement of school medical examinations formerly completed in the months of September and October, and included in the health report for the same calendar year. It covers the period of the school year ending 31st July, 1939, and is incorporated in the health report for that year.

These Departmental Circulars provided for a new and uniform school medical record card to take the place of the former record cards, which differed more or less from county to county and had persisted more or less unchanged from the inception of school medical examinations.

The new record cards have been, moreover, so drafted as to give effect to certain recommendations of the recent Committee on Scottish Health Services, one of which was that an attempt should be made to relate the defects found in school children to the number of children affected, and indicate how far the defects were remediable, an effect achieved by assessing children individually into one of four groups according to their physical condition and whether or not the condition was remediable.

In addition, by Section 6 of the National Health Insurance (Juvenile Contributors and Young Persons) Act, 1937, a summary of the data recorded in school medical inspection in the case of young persons under 18 years of age who become insurably employed, and therefore entitled to medical benefit, is now to be furnished to insurance practitioners, so continuing and rendering more effective the medical supervision of the child after he passes from school care to that of the National Health Insurance practitioner. A statement regarding vocational guidance is to be supplied to the Local Committees for Juvenile Employment, and under the Factory Act of 1937 further medical particulars to examining surgeons.

To carry out these additional duties the Department expressed the hope that all authorities would provide the necessary experienced assistance and, as I have already stated, Dr. Barbara Edgecombe was appointed part-time medical officer almost solely for this purpose.

The following details, however, are given :

The number of schools under medical supervision was 49, with 3,433 children on the register, and an average attendance of 3,172.

16 visits to schools were paid for the purpose of systematic examination, and, in addition, 25 special visits.

In the absence of a health visitor for the Western area, Miss McIntosh had to do her best to carry out such school nursing as was possible for the entire County.

During the year she paid 212 visits to schools, examined 643 children for cleanliness, infectious or contagious diseases, paid 417 home visits in connection with these (practically all verminous, dirty or neglected children), while she paid 142 visits for other reasons, *i.e.* in following up cases of reported defect or in connection with the escorting of children to hospital. These were in addition to her other duties in connection with Public Health, tuberculosis and child welfare.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND CLASSES, INCLUDING OPEN-AIR SCHOOLS.

In 1938 three children were receiving education in the school attached to the Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh : one in the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Edinburgh, and a physically defective child in Willowbrae School, Edinburgh.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND PERSONAL HYGIENE FOR CHILDREN.

All class teachers are expected to give their children 20 minutes of physical training per day, while they are to some extent supervised by the two physical training instructresses who take the actual physical training lesson in schools where the teacher for any reason is not able to do so.

All class teachers are expected to give their children twenty minutes of physical training every day. They are,

to some extent, supervised by the two physical training instructresses who also take the actual physical training in schools where the teacher, for any reason, is not able to do so.

During the year a meeting between Mr. Cruickshank, the Department's Inspector of Physical Training in schools, the two physical training instructresses and myself, was arranged by the Director of Education with a view to taking steps to include in physical training in Berwickshire what has been called "basic physical training."

For, however valuable active physical training may be to children as children, there is still a danger in schemes of physical training of losing sight of the needs of the child as a future adult. The qualities that the adult should inherit from the child as a result of its school physical training are above all a good posture (in walking, standing and sitting) and a supple body. The muscular and nervous education of the child for this purpose has been termed "basic physical training." It is a particularly valuable part of general physical training, as it requires the deliberate use of the large muscles of the abdomen and hips on which the maintenance of an erect posture depends, and which in most people, and particularly in sedentary workers, are almost invariably neglected to their detriment in later life.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Defective Vision.—Dr. Sym, who paid his first visit to Berwickshire schools as a school oculist during 1917, died on 19th January, 1938, and was succeeded by Dr. Scott, also of Edinburgh. I advised the Education Committee to take advantage of the arrangements made by the National Ophthalmic Treatment Board, whose centres at Galashiels and Berwick-on-Tweed were attended by experienced ophthalmic surgeons, of whom Dr. Scott was one. For children who, for some reason, could not be taken to the clinics, Dr. Scott's services would be available in the schools as before, and a distinct advantage of the scheme was that the Board's qualified opticians would also

attend the schools with Dr. Scott, and so put an end to the complaints of badly-fitting spectacles, and at the same time enable parents who wanted a better grade of spectacles than that supplied by the Education Committee to obtain them. The scheme would also tend to make it easier for older people to obtain a specialist's opinion on the condition of their eyes.

In 1938, 36 children were examined by Dr. Scott, the Council's Ophthalmic Surgeon, and spectacles or drug treatment prescribed as required. Of these, 16 were examined at Berwick-on-Tweed.

Ear, Throat and Nose.—In 1938, 76 children were taken to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, by the Health Visitor, on behalf of their parents, for removal of adenoids with or without removal of tonsils.

Defective Teeth.—The dental scheme also came up for review during the year. Although in my opinion the effectiveness of any school dental scheme was largely dependant on the provision of similar facilities for mothers and pre-school children, for whom none were available, that was no reason why the Education Committee should not provide a better service for school children, more particularly as the dentist was working to full capacity during the time allowed, and would also, as required by the Department of Health, have to carry out the dental inspection for school medical examinations formerly carried out by the doctor. The time allowed was increased from 60 to 80 days.

In 1938, 1,098 children were intimated to their parents as requiring dental treatment. Out of 582 who accepted treatment, 556 were treated by the dental surgeon.

The treatment provided was as follows :—

Extractions—temporary teeth	..	183
„ permanent „	.. ..	450
(with exception of 5, local anaesthetics were used)		

Fillings—temporary teeth	..	..	1
„ permanent „	..	..	105
Scalings .. ..	..	..	108
Dressings .. ..	..	..	108
Other treatment	..	..	1

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEEDING OF CHILDREN.

At the middle of the year a return showed that meals were being provided for approximately 956 children, while under the Milk Marketing Board Scheme in 15 schools about 830 children were receiving bottles of milk.

Crippled Children.—20 children received treatment in the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for Crippled Children, Fairmilehead, Edinburgh, two of whom also received treatment in the Home for Crippled Children, Lauder Road, Edinburgh.

On 19th April, 1938, I reported to the Public Health Committee that six of our crippled children were at that time in-patients at the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital or the Douglas Home; that 22 others had been discharged from hospital to their homes with instructions for massage and remedial exercises, but that massage was not available, and the benefits of the hospital treatment were therefore being lost through lack of expert supervision at home. It was also clear that the constant returning of these children to hospital was taking up too much time. Mr. W. A. Cochrane, Surgeon-in-charge of the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital, was asked for advice on these difficulties and proposed that the Committee should (1) set up minor clinics in Berwickshire itself, (2) obtain the services in the County of a specialist orthopaedic surgeon at regular intervals, and (3) obtain the services of a specialist orthopaedic masseuse-nurse. Mr. Cochrane's suggestions were later approved by the Public Health Committee, and in December, 1938, by the County Council.

Mentally Defective Children.—During the calendar year, but before the start of the subsequent school year, ten children were examined by Dr. Patrick Steele. Of that

number, two were classed as imbeciles, seven as feeble-minded persons and one as a moral imbecile. The cases were certified as required under Section 1 of the Mental Deficiency and Lunacy (Scotland) Act, 1913. Educationally, four cases were graded as capable of receiving benefit from instruction in an ordinary school: four others were graded as incapable of receiving benefit in an ordinary school and for transference to a special class or school: while two were considered incapable of receiving benefit from instruction in a special class or school without detriment to the interests of the other children.

Minor Ailments.—Berwickshire has no school clinics, and, consequently, cases which ordinarily would be treated at a school clinic have here to be admitted to the County Hospital. During the year 12 children were admitted for the following causes:—

Kohler's Disease	1
Whooping Cough	2
Malnutrition	4
Kyphosis	1
Abscesses	1
Bronchitis	1
Broncho-pneumonia	1
Lordosis	1

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows a summary of the cases of infectious diseases notified. The figures refer to the entire County :—

	At Ages—Years.								Cases re-moved to hos-pital.	Cases not re-moved to hos-pital.
	At all ages.	under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and up-wards.		
Cerebro-spinal fever ..	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Chickenpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued fever (undulant)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	11	—	2	5	3	1	—	—	10	1
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	5
Jaundice, acute infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, acute influenzal	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Pneumonia, acute primary	15	—	3	1	1	3	4	3	10	5
Pneumonia (not otherwise notifiable)	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
Polio-myelitis, acute	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet fever or scarlatina	48	1	3	30	6	6	2	—	43	5
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	15	—	2	2	3	4	3	1	8	7
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	12	—	5	2	2	—	3	—	5	7
Typhoid or enteric fever	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—
Para-Typhoid A ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid B ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	117	1	17	43	17	15	18	6	85	32

The cases treated in the Council's Hospital during the year were as follows :—

					In hospital at midnight on 31st Dec., 1937.	Admitted during year 1938.	Cases treated during 1938.	Bed- patient days, 1938.
Typhoid	..	..	..	..	—	1	1	5
Scarlet Fever		..	..	..	4	45	49	1,937
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	11	11	460
Primary Pneumonia		..	..	..	—	12	12	422
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	1	—	1	18
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary		..	..	..	4	18	22	1,263
Non-Pulmonary		..	..	..	1	4	5	126
Other Diseases	..	..	..	..	6	41	47	1,810
Influenzal Pneumonia		..	..	..	—	—	—	—
					16	132	148	6,401

Note.—The day of admission and the day of discharge are counted as one day.

The incidence of Infectious Disease for the last 13 years is shown in the following table :—

<i>Disease</i>	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Diphtheria	.. 12	8	14	18	15	6	5	9	66	17	4	1	11
Enteric Fever	.. 1	—	4	—	3	1	—	—	3	5	1	2	2
Puerperal fever	.. 5	4	4	4	4	2	2	5	3	1	3	—	—
Scarlet fever	.. 109	119	77	113	64	73	19	38	131	98	55	46	48
Erysipelas	.. 15	14	10	11	4	13	3	8	9	8	6	3	5
*Ophthalmia neonatorum	.. —	7	2	1	3	—	—	2	—	5	1	1	—
†Encephalitis lethargica	.. 7	3	2	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
‡Pneumonia	.. 13	25	15	26	16	11	14	28	11	23	15	29	17
Pulmonary tuber- culosis	.. 34	24	32	23	23	17	20	19	12	18	16	15	15
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	.. 25	16	22	23	39	21	29	26	17	13	11	12	12
?Puerperal pyrexia	.. —	—	—	1	1	4	1	4	2	6	3	4	1
Malaria	.. —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	221	220	182	220	175	149	93	139	254	195	115	114	111

*Notification introduced in November, 1918. †Notification introduced in December, 1925.

‡Notification introduced in August, 1919. ?Notification introduced in October, 1929.

6.—TUBERCULOSIS—PREVENTION AND TREAT- MENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COLLAPSE THERAPY.

Full particulars are given in the following tables.

I.—Return of Cases of Tuberculosis notified during the Year.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED AS SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE GROUPS.										No. of cases notified during year in which diagnosis of tuberculosis has been confirmed	
Under 5.		5 and under 10.	10 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 up- wards.	Total.	Under 15.	and up- wards.
PULMONARY*											
Males ..	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	4	1	3
Females ..	1	—	1	1	2	2	3	1	11	2	9
NON-PULMONARY.											
Males ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	3	2
Females ..	3	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	7	4	3

*Where a case is notified as suffering from both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis it is included under "Pulmonary" only.

II.—Number of Notifications of Tuberculosis since 1922.

			Total cases of Pulmonary tuberculosis notified during year.	Number dying before or within six months of notification.	Number of Non- Pulmonary cases notified.	Total cases notified.
1922	..	..	38	16	14	52
1923	..	..	29	9	32	61
1924	..	..	45	20	31	76
1925	..	..	35	19	42	77
1926	..	..	34	16	25	59
1927	..	..	24	15	16	40
1928	..	..	32	12	23	55
1929	..	..	23	7	23	46
1930	..	..	23	7	39	62
1931	..	..	17	6	21	38
1932	..	..	20	7	29	49
1933	..	..	19	11	26	45
1934	..	..	12	5	17	29
1935	..	..	18	3	13	31
1936	..	..	16	6	11	27
1937	..	..	15	4	12	27
1938	..	..	15	5	12	27

The year 1938 shares with the two preceding years the lowest number of notifications since 1922.

Of the 27 cases of tuberculosis which were notified during the year, in 15 patients tuberculous disease was localised in the lungs and in 12 patients elsewhere. Of the pulmonary cases notified, three were notified after death and five others died within six months of notification.

Fifty-one patients received institutional treatment during the year (of whom 20 were already in institutions when the year began, 11 for pulmonary conditions and nine for non-pulmonary conditions). Of the 31 admitted during the year, 24 were on account of pulmonary and 7 on account of non-pulmonary conditions. Two patients died in hospital, one from pulmonary and one from non-pulmonary disease. The year ended with 19 patients under treatment, 12 being pulmonary and 7 non-pulmonary.

Thirty-seven X-ray examinations were carried out during the year, of which 29 showed no trace of tuberculous disease, three early traces, while in five the disease was well advanced.

The number of persons with pulmonary tuberculosis known to be resident in the County was, at the end of the year, 28, as compared with 118 for the year 1922.

While this reduction is undoubtedly due, in the case of pulmonary tuberculosis in the greatest measure, to the segregation that accompanies institutional treatment, the large reduction in the county's population of young people must also be accepted as a contributory factor. Younger people are more prone than others to tuberculosis, and if they are not born, then the incidence of the disease will naturally fall.

With regard to the cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis caused by a milk supply infected with living tubercle bacilli, there can be no doubt but that the elimination of tuberculous cows by veterinary inspection of dairy herds, the increasing quantities of graded milk produced, together with more rational ways of living, have been the

most important factors contributing to the reduction in the number of cases. Even here, however, the fall in the number of children has played its part.

Despite the provision of sanatorium and hospital facilities, as well as X-ray examinations of suspicious cases, the proportions of those notified after death, or who died within six months of notification still number slightly over 50 per cent. In some of these cases there was simply no hope of an earlier diagnosis owing to the rapid ravages of the tubercle bacilli. In regard to other cases, however, it is worthy of recollection that in 1922 I pointed out that out of 105 cases of consumption notified in the previous three years, in no fewer than 70 cases the patient or his friends dated his onset of the consumptive condition to a bad recovery from pleurisy, pneumonia or influenza. As it was obviously better to put the patients under the best conditions for recovery from any of these diseases, rather than allow them to fall a victim to subsequent tuberculosis, I offered to take all such cases into the County Hospital at Gordon for thorough convalescence. That offer still stands.

What is satisfactory, is the large number of X-ray examinations that prove negative. Any patients in whom tuberculous disease of the lungs is even remotely suspected should be X-rayed as a routine, as well as all patients who have had pneumonia, pleurisy or influenza, and whose recovery is incomplete.

7.—VENEREAL DISEASES—PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are provided by arrangement with the Corporation of Edinburgh. Patients, whether men, women, or children, are sent to the appropriate hospital, and, if necessary, their travelling expenses are paid.

In some cases the requirements can be served by weekly visits to the hospital, but, in an increasing proportion of the cases, satisfactory treatment can only be carried out in an Edinburgh institution.

The number of patients treated under the scheme was 16, but these figures give no indication of the total number of venereal cases in the county, as venereal disease is not notifiable.

Treatment is confidential; patients' names are not divulged, travelling expenses being paid on receipt of an attendance certificate from the clinic concerned, on which a serial letter and number are given instead of the name.

8.—DIABETES—PROVISION FOR MEDICINE AND TREATMENT.

Insured persons are entitled to a supply of Insulin from the Insurance Committee, whilst those who do not come within the purview of that Authority are dealt with by the County Council under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1925.

The County Council Scheme makes provision for the free supply of Insulin to persons suffering from Diabetes, who are deemed to be necessitous, and to others at actual cost, when their circumstances justify this.

During the year 11 persons received supplies free of cost.

9.—CANCER—PROVISION FOR TREATMENT OF

No arrangements have been made for provision of treatment for either early and curable cases or late and incurable cases.

10.—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The only mental services provided by the County are the provision of mental hospital accommodation at Melrose for certified patients, and the provision by the Education Committee of a Medico Psychologist for the examination of school children suspected to be mentally defective.

No provision is made or contemplated in connection with mental disability in pre-certification cases, either by way of co-ordination of existing services, by child guidance, or by out-patient treatment of early mental and functional nervous disorders.

11.—SICK POOR.

(a) *Domiciliary Service*—arrangements for medical care and nursing.—Domiciliary attendance on the Sick Poor is almost entirely by medical practitioners on a fee basis, the nearest medical practitioner attending the patient. Six parish medical officers still exist, but as these fall vacant no further appointments will be made, and the nearest medical practitioner will attend.

Nursing is given by district nurses, under arrangements made with the Federation of Nursing Associations.

(b) “*Mixed*” *Poorhouses*.—For the ordinary Public Assistance patient of a chronic nature, there is available Kelso Poorhouse in Roxburgh, and Prestonkirk in East Lothian. Where a patient requires special hospital treatment, he or she may be sent to hospitals such as the Royal

Infirmary, Edinburgh, or locally to Berwick-upon-Tweed Infirmary, or the Coldstream Cottage Hospital.

Tuberculous cases are sent to East Fortune or the County Hospital; pneumonia cases to the County Hospital: urgent surgical cases requiring operation are sent direct to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, or the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, Berwick Infirmary or Coldstream Cottage Hospital, while services already available for other sections of the community for eyes, ears, nose and throat are also made use of for the Public Assistance patient.

During the year 1938 the following numbers of Sick Poor received medical treatment.

	<i>Males. Females. Children. Total.</i>			
(a) Persons who received outdoor medical relief in the Council's area	79	86	16	181
(b) Persons who received medical treatment <i>under the Poor Law</i> in—				
(1) the Council's institutions, including combination institutions in which the Council has a share ..	7	3	—	10
(2) other, including voluntary, institutions ..	2	2	—	4
Totals	88	91	16	195

12.—HOSPITALS.

General.—Patients who under any of the Council's Schemes require general hospital treatment are as a rule sent to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, or the Western General Hospital.

Infectious Diseases.—Patients with ordinary infections, such as diphtheria, scarlet fever, paratyphoid, measles, whooping cough, etc., are sent to the County Hospital, but those with surgical complications, or with diseases that require special laboratory investigation, such as enteric, cerebro spinal fever, etc., are sent to the City Fever Hospital, Edinburgh.

Sanatoria. The County has a share of 16 beds in East Fortune Sanatorium. Cases which for any reason must be retained locally are accommodated in the County Hospital, while special cases are generally sent to the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh (the last patient sent there was a woman with tuberculous lungs for induction of labour), while a few patients are sent by medical practitioners to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, or the Sick Children's Hospital.

Maternity Hospitals.—Most maternity cases requiring hospital intervention are sent to the Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, or to the Elsie Inglis Hospital.

Children.—All orthopaedic cases are sent to the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for Crippled Children, Fairmilehead, Edinburgh. If for any reason they cannot be sent home on discharge, then they are accommodated either in the Lauder Road Home or the County Hospital, which also serves as one of the minor clinics of the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital organisation.

Surgical cases occurring in the Child Welfare Scheme are sent as a rule to the Sick Children's Hospital, and in the case of adenoids, while the Council does not undertake responsibility directly, it can arrange on behalf of the parents for admission to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. For the work which is thus done for school children and others the Public Health Committee makes an annual payment of £100 to the Royal Infirmary and £30 to the Sick Children's Hospital.

In the absence of school clinics the County Hospital also admits children with conditions that are not likely to be alleviated at home, or for observation, *e.g.*, children with malnutrition, severe anaemia, suspected mental defect, intractable skin conditions, ringworm, discharging ears, and so on.

Convalescent Homes.—Another ordinary function of the County Hospital is to be provided for the convalescing of those who are not making a satisfactory recovery from serious conditions, such as pneumonia and pleurisy. As

these conditions are not infrequently followed by tuberculosis it is a wise proceeding.

Taking a broad view of things, I find comparatively little difficulty in obtaining admission for hospital cases, and I must acknowledge the courtesy and consideration of all in those hospitals with whom I have to deal.

The next table gives the numbers of those treated in hospitals under the Council's various schemes for the year 1938. It should be noted that the Council only treats certain diseases or certain age groups, or a particular sex, such as in maternity and gynaecological cases, and the figures below are therefore divided according to the particular scheme which treats them.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE:—

County Hospital, Gordon	..	..	..	15
Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh				7
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh	..	..	..	3
Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh	..			19
City Fever Hospital, Edinburgh	..	..		1
Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for Crippled Children, Edinburgh	..	..	..	2
Douglas Home, Lauder Road, Edinburgh	..			1
Bruntsfield Hospital, Edinburgh	..	..		1
Western General Hospital, Edinburgh	..			3
Haig Ferguson Home	..	..	..	1
				— 53

TUBERCULOSIS:—

County Hospital, Gordon	..	..	..	28
East Fortune Sanatorium	..	..	..	31
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh	..	..	..	3
Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh				1
				— 63

INFECTIOUS DISEASE:—

County Hospital, Gordon	..	..	..	69
City Fever Hospital, Edinburgh	..	..		6
				— 75

EDUCATION :—

Royal Hospital for Sick Children	..	..	2
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh	..	..	78
County Hospital, Gordon	..	..	13
Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for Crippled Children, Edinburgh	..	..	8
Home for Crippled Children, Lauder Road, Edinburgh	..	..	2
Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh	..	..	3
Deaf and Dumb Institution	..	..	1
Physically Defective School, Edinburgh	..		1
			— 108

COUNTY HOSPITAL :—

The following gives particulars of the work of the County Hospital for the year :—

1.—Total number of admissions	..	..	135
2.—Total number of patients discharged	..		127
3.—Total number of deaths	..	..	7
4.—Average duration of stay of patients in- cluded in 2 and 3 above (Total patient days divided by the sum of the deaths and discharges)	..	..	45.0
5.—Number of beds occupied :—			
(a) Average during the year	..	..	15.5
(b) Highest, 27. on 15th April, 1938.			
(c) Lowest, 6, on 13th October, 1938.			

The only difficulty experienced at the hospital during the year was in connection with the boiler house which was proving inadequate in size and, owing to its depth below the surface, subject to flooding in heavy rain, while storage space for reserve fuel was inadequate for emergencies. A report prepared in the previous year by Messrs. Cullen, Lochhead & Brown was reconsidered by the Hospital Committee, and it was agreed to recommend the expenditure of £1,455 for the erection of an entirely new boiler house on the sloping ground to the north.

The mechanical firing gave no trouble. The boiler consumed during the financial year, 1937-38, 183 tons of washed pearls, which cost £227. Had the hand firing

been retained, and with the same consumption as in the last financial year of hand firing, 1934-1935, when 151 tons of anthracite were consumed, the cost would have been £428.

13.—AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

At the beginning of the year, the Council had only one 16 h.p. ambulance for the joint use of the County Hospital and the medical schemes of the County.

With the prospect of a Maternity Services Act, under which the Council would become financially liable for any avoidable mishap to their patients, it was recognised that differentiation would require to be made between clean and septic cases. A 12 h.p. Austin tradesman's van was accordingly purchased and converted to serve as an ambulance, at a total cost of approximately £250, and put into service in the month of April for the purpose of conveying septic or infectious cases, while the larger ambulance was retained for clean cases, maternity cases and accidents.

For the year 1938, the figures relating to this service were:—

Turns out	..	..	..	..	310.
Mileage	..	..	..	..	18,669 miles.
Patients carried	..	..	..	..	506.

Of the mileage of 18,669—

Infectious Disease cases accounted for	..	2544
Tuberculous cases	..	2779
Other cases, Maternity Service, Child Welfare, School, etc.	..	13,346

HEALTH EDUCATION.

With the exception of home visits to mothers and children by the Health Visitors, no effective health education is provided, although there can be no doubt that if the medical services now at the disposal of people are to be really effective the introduction of such education is vital. Public Health imposed by regulations shows poor results. There is all the more reason for definite health or biological teaching in a rural community such as Berwickshire where, to many, a knowledge of the ways of living things, is an asset in making a living.

F.—WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

The usual inspections were made of the workshops and workplaces in the County, and the tabular statement of proceedings under the 1901 Act was completed and sent to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs.

BLIND PERSONS.

Under the provisions made by the Blind Persons Act of 1920, the County Council must keep a Register of Blind Persons resident in the County, admission to which Register is only given on certification by an Ophthalmic Surgeon, and prepare a scheme for the exercise of their powers under the Act. The scheme provides, *inter alia*, that the Council utilises, as far as possible, the existing approved voluntary agencies, and, in particular, the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, and the Edinburgh and South-East of Scotland Society for Teaching the Blind to Read at their Own Homes.

The number of persons on the Blind Roll at 31st December, 1938, was 26 ; two new cases were added during the year.

The 26 persons on the Roll were maintained as follows :—

5	Blind Old Age Pension.	
4	„ „ „	plus domiciliary assistance.
1	„ „ „	Plus National Health Insurance and domiciliary assistance.
6	Old Age Pension only.	
1	„ „ „	Plus War Office Pension.
1	„ „ „	and domiciliary assistance
1	National Health Insurance and Domiciliary Assistance.	
1	War Office Pension.	
1	B.O.A.P., plus other funds plus domiciliary assistance.	
4	Dependent on relatives.	
1	Earnings.	

During the year 304 visits were paid by Miss Campbell, visitor of the Society for Teaching the Blind in their own Homes ; and, in addition, 27 visits were paid by the Health Visitor.

Ten new wireless sets were installed ; repairs were carried out in the case of six sets, and 9 H.T. batteries were supplied. One set was removed.

13 persons received bus privilege tickets.

In addition to the Blind Persons Act of 1920, the Blind Persons Act, 1938, came into operation on the 1st of April, providing amongst other things for the lowering of the age at which a blind person became eligible for a pension under the Old Age Pension Act of 1936, from 50 to 40 years ; removing the blind person and his dependents (apart from exceptional needs), from the Poor Law ; requiring local authorities to take into account in determining applications for financial assistance not only the needs of the blind persons but the needs of those members of the household who are dependent on him ; and also requiring all assistance (other than assistance in an institution or medical assistance) to be given under the Blind Persons Act. The necessary provisions were made.

Engineer's Report.

Although I commenced duty as Engineer to the Public Health Department only on 15th April, 1938, this report is for the work done in the entire year.

General.—The year under review has been a very busy one and has meant a period of hard but interesting work. I am sure there must be a feeling of satisfaction amongst all who have taken part in this work, in the knowledge that they have assisted in some way towards a general improvement in the sanitary and housing conditions of the community. Much still remains to be done.

Building Bye-laws. As the Building Bye-laws only received final approval on 18th December, 1937, the requirements were not fully understood immediately by the public. In order to make the Bye-laws known, so that a stricter supervision could be exercised, a copy was sent to all architects and contractors known to carry out work in the County. The advent of these Bye-laws has undoubtedly raised the standard of new houses and that of improvements to existing houses.

During the year plans were examined and approved for 21 buildings.

Housing.—The housing problem is, I'm afraid, like the poor, always with us. The influence good housing has on the health and happiness of the people is, I think, appreciated by almost everyone. Unfortunately, the demand seems to be considerably ahead of the supply. To a certain extent the responsibility for this rests with the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1930, one of the requirements of which is that a new house must be in replacement of one demolished or closed. As this Act was the only Act by which a subsidy could be obtained for rehousing from 1930 until the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1935, came into operation, and the subsidy under it is more generous when rehousing the larger families, local authorities, even when the latter

Act came into operation, still favoured the former, with the result that there was either no increase in the number of houses or the increase was relatively small.

The class of tenant who derives the least benefit from these Housing Acts and who is deserving of better treatment is the respectable working man who has been anxious to house his family in the best house obtainable and within his means. Usually he occupies a house which, whilst lacking many amenities and modern conveniences, cannot be dealt with under the 1930 Act and is not overcrowded. He sees many of his fellows who, being indifferent to the condition of the house they occupy, are in one the condition of which is such that it is condemned. They are then rehoused by the County Council in a house which is provided with all the conveniences and amenities with which he has so longed to provide his family, and at a rent probably less than that which he is paying.

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1930 AND 1935.

Houses contracted for, under construction or completed by the County Council during 1938.

District.	Contracted for				Under Construction at end of year.				Completed and Occupied at end of year.			
	3 apt	4 apt	5 apt	Total	3 apt	4 apt	5 apt	Total	3 apt	4 apt	5 apt	Total
Ayton	6	—	—	6	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Chirnside ...	—	12	3	15	—	12	3	15	—	—	—	—
Earlston ...	4	6	2	12	4	6	2	12	—	—	—	—
Gordon ...	1	2	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4
Greenlaw ...	2	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	4
Longformacus	4	—	—	4	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
	17	22	6	45	14	18	5	37	3	4	1	8

HOUSES BUILT BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY WITH STATE ASSISTANCE.

The total number of houses erected by the County Council under the various Housing Acts and completed and occupied by 31st December, 1938, is as follows :—

Locality.	1924 Act				1930 Act				1935 Act				Totals			
	3 apt	4 apt	5 apt	Total	3 apt	4 apt	5 apt	Total	3 apt	4 apt	5 apt	Total	3 apt	4 apt	5 apt	Total
Ayton	—	2	—	2	4	4	1	9	—	2	1	3	4	8	2	14
Chirnside	20	3	—	23	12	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	32	3	—	35
Clockmill	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Cockburnspath ...	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	8
Coldingham	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	8
Cowdrait	—	—	—	—	20	2	—	22	—	—	—	—	20	2	—	22
Earlston	4	—	—	4	6	—	—	6	2	—	—	2	12	—	—	12
Gordon	4	—	—	4	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	3	5	2	1	8
Grantshouse	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	6
Greenlaw	4	—	—	4	5	2	—	7	1	—	—	1	10	2	—	12
Lauder	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Oxton	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Reston	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	8
Ross	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	5
St. Abbs	6	2	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	—	8
Upper Burnmouth	—	2	—	2	13	—	—	13	1	2	—	3	14	4	—	18
Grand Totals ...	72	13	—	85	64	10	1	75	4	6	2	12	140	29	3	172

Particulars of these houses are given in an Appendix to this report.

HOUSES BUILT BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY
WITHOUT STATE ASSISTANCE DURING THE YEAR
ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

District	3 apt.	4 apt.	5 apt.	Total
Ayton	—	1	—	1
Gordon	—	1	—	1
Total	—	2	—	2

HOUSES BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

A total of 17 houses built by private enterprise were completed and occupied during the year.

2 apt.	3 apt.	4 apt.	5 apt.	6 apt.	Total
—	9	3	1	4	17

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) (SCOTLAND) ACTS.
1926 TO 1938.

The Council's scheme of assistance under these Acts was approved by the Department of Health for Scotland on 11th November, 1938.

Applications for grant were received in respect of nine dwellings to which it was intended to carry out improvements. None of these applications had been approved by the County Council by the end of the year.

Judging from the number of meetings I have already had with proprietors and architects regarding improvements to cottages, I anticipate a large number of applications for grant during the coming year.

HOUSING (AGRICULTURAL POPULATION)
(SCOTLAND) ACT, 1938.

The Council are preparing a scheme of assistance under this Act.

This Act could also be applied with advantage to house certain types of agricultural workers, such as drainers, fencers, odd workers, etc., at various selected points throughout the County. These points would be chosen for their proximity to employment, schools and water supplies.

HOUSING SCHEME MAINTENANCE.

A considerable amount of my time was spent on the care and maintenance of the houses owned by the County Council. This work is rendered the more difficult owing to the scattered nature of the schemes. Tenants could assist materially by being more precise in their complaints, as I frequently get a message which indicates an urgent repair and on making an inspection find that the need for repair is unfounded or could without danger or inconvenience to the occupier have been postponed until a more convenient time.

Outside painterwork was carried out to sixteen houses at Chirnside, four houses at Oxtou and eight houses at St. Abbs.

COUNTY HOSPITAL, GORDON.

Necessary repairs were carried out. The slab paving in front of the diphtheria block had to be lifted and relaid owing to a subsidence.

A new refuse destructor was purchased and is giving satisfaction.

The present boiler-house is very unsatisfactory. It is very congested and damp. In the event of anything going wrong with the heating or hot water plant it might not be possible to carry out the necessary repairs without dismantling the entire system.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLHOUSES.

Polwarth and Millburn schools and schoolhouses were repainted. Necessary repairs were attended to.

County Offices, etc.—Minor repairs were carried out.

WATER SUPPLIES.

It seems surprising that in a district with a rainfall of approximately 34 inches, so much difficulty should be experienced in maintaining satisfactory supplies of water. Admittedly the consumption of water is rapidly increasing with the introduction of modern conveniences, and the ease with which it is obtained makes for it being used more lavishly. Whilst I do not suggest that all supplies are adequate, I am of opinion, nevertheless, that the inconveniences caused to many by a shortage could be prevented or at least lessened by a little care and consideration on the part of the users, particularly those whose premises are situated on the lower levels. This lack of consideration may be the means of forcing the district into considerable expense to satisfy the needs of a relatively small number of the community. It seems to me unfair that many consumers, whilst paying only the ordinary rate for water for domestic purposes, use it lavishly for other purposes, thus not only getting a supply out of proportion to what they are paying for but depriving others of their legitimate requirements. It is unfortunate that the demand for water by gardeners invariably coincides with a shortage, and progressively increases as the drought continues.

So much for the cause, but what of the cure ?

Much has been said in criticism of the rainwater barrel, but were each house provided with a barrel with a proper draw-off tap and overflow to the drainage system, no exception could be taken to it. It would provide the housewife with soft water for washing and the gardener with an almost unfailing supply.

Many houses are without storage cisterns or cisterns of very small capacity, with the result that at periods of maximum draw-off the pressure or carrying capacity of the mains is insufficient to maintain the supply. A storage cistern of adequate capacity would prevent the inconvenience of an intermittent supply.

I would also recommend that a waste water inspection be carried out at least once every year, and that the

proprietor of every property where a defective fitting is found be notified that it must be repaired forthwith.

Might I also suggest that air valves, stop valves and scour valves should not be neglected and allowed to be lost or buried until an emergency arises when they cannot be found, thus entailing unnecessary inconvenience and expense. A regular inspection of these fittings should be made and would occasionally actually prevent a shortage of water.

SPECIAL WATER DISTRICTS.

The Special Water Districts are :—**East District** : Ayton, Burnmouth, Chirnside, Cockburnspath, Coldingham, Grantshouse, Reston and St. Abbs ; **Middle District** : Greenlaw, Langton, Leitholm, Lennel and Longformacus ; **West District** : Earlston, Gordon, Oxton, Redpath and Westruther.

Ayton.—Difficulty was experienced for a short time in maintaining the high level supply. In the event of Ayton Castle being occupied the water available for Ayton from that source would be much reduced if not entirely stopped for a considerable part of the year. In the construction of the new supply for the village of Reston advantage was taken to connect the new delivery pipe from the Reston pump to the Ayton main, thus making it possible to pump water from the Reston supply to Ayton. This method of augmenting Ayton supply is only to be recommended as an emergency measure, and cannot be considered as a permanent solution to the shortage on the high level supply.

Burnmouth.—Repeated shortages took place on the Upper Burnmouth supply. On investigations being made the supply was considerably improved. On measuring the quantity of water going into the tank it was found to be sufficient to give each person approximately 20 gallons per day. The quantity of water available at the spring was found to be double that reaching the storage tank. The

pipe between the spring and the storage tank is either corroded or improperly graded; consequently, it is not carrying all the water available. It would improve matters considerably to have this pipe relaid, provided a satisfactory agreement could be come to with the proprietor of the water rights.

The position is most unsatisfactory and will always be a source of complaint until works to remedy the shortage are carried out.

Chirnside.—Owing to the difficulty of maintaining an adequate supply to parts of the village a scheme to augment the existing storage and provide additional mains is under construction.

Coldingham.—The supply appears to have been satisfactory. No complaints were received.

Grants house.—This supply has been very intermittent. The higher houses were without water on numerous occasions. A scheme is under consideration to augment the supply by the inclusion of a spring north of the village on the east side of the main road.

Reston.—The new scheme to augment the existing supply was completed during the year. After the preliminary difficulties which usually arise on new schemes being put into operation, it has functioned very satisfactorily and an ample supply is now available.

St. Abbs.—The supply was inadequate during the autumn. A new scheme to augment the existing supply was commenced. This scheme comprises a well and pump house in Seavie Haugh from which the water is to be pumped up to a storage tank at the west end of Creel Road. From the storage tank the water will gravitate to the village where a connection will be made to the existing system.

Greenlaw.—The supply was again inadequate during the autumn. A reservoir to provide additional storage is under construction at Greenlawdean.

Langton.—Complaints of lack of water were received. On investigations being made the water was found to be

leaking into a well from which a connection had been made to the main for emergency purposes.

Leitholm.—The proposed scheme is in abeyance owing to the excessive cost.

Longformacus.—The scheme providing additional storage accommodation and mains was completed and is functioning satisfactorily.

Lennel.—This scheme has been postponed meantime.

Earlston.—Owing to the lack of a sufficient supply the question of bringing in additional sources is under consideration.

Gordon.—A shortage was experienced at the County Hospital. A fracture in the main was located and repaired since when the supply has been sufficient.

DRAINAGE.

The Special Drainage Districts in the County are :—

East District : Ayton, Burnmouth, Chirnside, Cockburnspath and Cove, Coldingham, St. Abbs and Reston ; **Middle District :** Langton, Leitholm, Longformacus and Swinton ; **West District :** Earlston, Gordon, Oxton and Westruther.

Ayton. The main sewer was extended and a septic tank constructed.

Chirnside.—During periods of excessive rain the sewer in Kirkgate is unable to cope with the flow, with the result that certain houses towards the bottom of the hill suffer from occasional flooding. The local Committee had under consideration a scheme to prevent this nuisance, but have had to delay proceeding with it until the route of the sewer from the new school has been settled and terms agreed to with the Education Committee.

Cockburnspath.—Considerable trouble has been experienced owing to choking of the sewers caused apparently by the large diameter of the pipes in proportion to the quantity of liquid and or lack of sufficient fall. Works to remedy this complaint are under consideration.

Cove.—Drawings and schedules for a sewer to pass along the front of the house and discharge into the sewer from Cockburnspath railway station have been prepared and await final approval.

Reston.—The proposed new sewage scheme has been delayed owing to the cost, the local committee being of opinion that the burden of the additional rates required would be more than the village could bear.

Leitholm.—The proposed scheme is in abeyance.

Longformacus.—The drainage scheme completed last year is functioning satisfactorily.

Swinton.—The proposed scheme for the village has been delayed meantime.

PARTICULARS OF COUNCIL OWNED HOUSES.

BUILT UNDER THE 1924 ACT
(NOT SUBJECT TO SPECIAL CONDITIONS).

<i>Situation.</i>				<i>No. of Houses.</i>	<i>Size of Houses.</i>	<i>Rent.</i>
Chirnside	...	...	...	1	4 apts.	£15
Clockmill	...	...	...	2	4	£15
Lauder	...	...	...	2	4	£14

BUILT UNDER THE 1924 ACT
(SUBJECT TO SPECIAL CONDITIONS).

Ayton	...	...	...	2	4	£13	15/-
Chirnside	...	...	...	2	4	£13	15/-
"	...	...	...	20	3	£10	10/-
Cockburnspath	...	...	...	8	3	£10	
Coldingham	...	...	...	8	3	£10	10/-
Earlston	...	...	...	4	3	£10	10/-
Gordon	...	...	...	4	3	£10	10/-
Grantshouse	...	...	...	6	3	£10	
Greenlaw	...	...	...	4	3	£11	15/-
Oxton	...	...	...	4	3	£10	10/-
Reston	...	...	...	8	3	£10	10/-
St. Abbs	...	...	...	4	3	£10	10/-
"	...	...	...	2	3	£11	15/-
"	...	...	...	2	4	£13	15/-
Upper Burnmouth	...	...	...	2	4	£13	15/-

BUILT UNDER 1930 ACT.

Ayton	...	...	...	4	3	£11 15/-
"	...	...	...	4	4	£13 15/-
"	...	...	...	1	5	£16
Chirnside	...	...	...	12	3	£8
Cowdrait	...	...	...	20	3	£8
"	...	...	...	2	4	£10
Earlston	...	...	..	6	3	£12
Gordon	...	...	...	1	3	£11 15/-
Greenlaw	...	...	...	4	3	£8
"	...	...	...	1	3	£11 15/-
"	...	...	...	2	4	£13 15/-
Ross	...	...	...	3	3	£8
"	...	...	...	2	4	£10
Upper Burnmouth	...	...	...	12	3	£8
"	"	...	...	1	3	£10 10/-

BUILT UNDER 1935 ACT.

<i>Situation.</i>				<i>No. of Houses.</i>	<i>Size of Houses.</i>	<i>Rent.</i>
Ayton	...	...	...	2	4 apts.	£13 15/-
"	...	...	...	1	5	£16
Earlston	...	...	...	2	3	£12
Gordon	...	...	...	2	4	£13 15/-
"	...	...	...	1	5	£16
Greenlaw	...	...	...	1	3	£11 15/-
Upper Burnmouth	...	...	...	1	3	£10 10/-
"	"	...	...	2	4	£13 15/-

Sanitary Inspectors' Report.

CLEANSING.

Special Cleansing Districts in the County are:—**East District** : Ayton, Chirnside, Cockburnspath, Coldingham, Reston, St. Abbs ; **Middle District** : Greenlaw, Langton and Leitholm ; **West District** : Earlston, Gordon, Oxtou.

The following is a summary of work carried out in each Special District.

Ayton.—There is a daily collection of household refuse in this village and a special collection once a week for tins, etc. The refuse is dumped on a piece of waste ground outside the village. Conditions are satisfactory.

Chirnside.—The collection of refuse is carried out daily. The dump, which is an old quarry, is situated at some distance outside the village and is maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition. More care might be exercised in the disposal of bulky articles.

Cockburnspath.—The collection here is made once weekly and is contracted out. The refuse is being tipped at a site north of the village.

Coldingham.—The collection at this village is made twice weekly, the undertaking being carried out by a local contractor. Here there is no controlled tip, the refuse being dumped on agricultural ground and ploughed in.

Reston.—Refuse is collected twice weekly, the dump being on a piece of waste ground near to Heughhead Cross Roads. Conditions are satisfactory.

St. Abbs.—At this village arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse are carried out under similar conditions as Coldingham.

Greenlaw.—A weekly collection of household refuse is made, this being contracted for locally. The dump is situated north of the village and is maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Langton.—A weekly collection of household refuse is made and is contracted out. The dump is a disused

quarry situated some distance from the village and would require more careful management.

Leitholm.—Refuse is collected once weekly by a local contractor. The dump is a piece of disused ground south of the village and is maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Earlston.—Refuse is collected daily, and a special collection for waste paper and tins is made once a week. The dump is situated south of the village and the enclosure is quite filled up. It is not advisable that the surface level be heightened further. An extension would appear necessary.

Oxton.—Oxton village has a weekly collection which is carried out by a local contractor. This dump is a disused quarry and is kept in a satisfactory condition.

Generally, the refuse dumps on a whole are free from nuisance, although at times untidy conditions exist.

Areas at which systematic collection of household refuse are required are Swinton, Lennel Newtown, Birgham, Burnmouth, Grantshouse and Whitsome.

The principal difficulty associated with village scavenging is the securing of a site for disposal of refuse. While in many cases places appear suitable owners for various reasons object to dumping on their property. An endeavour is always made to interfere as little as possible with amenities but the most diligent search fails at times to disclose any place within a reasonable distance which could be described as sufficiently secluded or otherwise suitable for the purpose.

There will be the possibility of securing a dump for Swinton village and which could also serve for Whitsome.

NUISANCES.

Fifty-two nuisances were dealt with during the year. These related to choked drains, offensive overflows from cesspools, accumulation of slaughterhouse garbage, foul ditches and ashpits, etc. In all cases nuisances were abated.

HOUSING.

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1930.

The administrative procedure during the year, which was summarised in the information supplied to the Department of Health in terms of the regulations under the Housing Acts, is given in the following tabular statement and subsequent paragraphs :—

	<i>Farm Servants</i>	<i>Other Houses</i>
Number of houses inspected	906	285
Number of houses found to be in some respect unfit for habitation	311	233
Number of houses without a proper supply of water inside the house	258	177
Number of houses without a separate water closet	361	226
Number of houses in respect of which notices were served under Section 16 (1)	18	33
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertaking has been given that houses will not be used for human habitation until it has been rendered fit	12	17
Number of houses in respect of which undertaking has been given that houses will be rendered fit	Nil.	Nil.
Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made under Section 16 (3)	—	3
Number of houses in respect of which closing orders have been made ...	—	—
Number of dwellings in respect of which closing orders have been determined ...	—	—
Number of houses in respect of which notices were served under Section 14 (1)	—	—
Number of houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	20	22

The general character of defects usually found to exist in the dwelling houses dealt with was principally dampness, want of proper scullery and pantry accommodation, and no sanitary conveniences.

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS.

Only three new houses were completed and occupied by tenants from houses dealt with by Demolition and Closing Orders, the number of persons displaced being eleven.

				<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Persons Displaced.</i>
Greenlaw	...	...	...	2	8
Gordon	...	...	...	1	3

INSANITARY DWELLINGS.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the most unsatisfactory conditions existing at Chirnside Mill houses and also Cumledge Mill houses.

At Chirnside there are in all 56 houses. The accommodation is principally room and kitchen with small apartment which is used as scullery and pantry. There is one dry closet for two families and water is drawn from outside taps.

The water supply for these houses has to be pumped, but there appears to be an ample supply at the source to meet the introduction of inside appliances.

Structurally these houses are in a fair condition, and there appears to be no unsurmountable difficulties to prevent the introduction of sink and water closet accommodation. It will necessitate structural alteration to several of the houses, while in others the addition of small outbuildings to accommodate these appliances.

At Cumledge Mill conditions are not so acute. There are, however, instances of one w.c. serving as many as six to eight families.

Here again there are no unsurmountable difficulties to prevent the introduction of sinks and w.c.'s into every house. Water and w.c.'s were introduced into the lower block of houses about two years ago, and the remaining houses should be similarly treated.

The position in respect of housing farm servants at the end of the year may be summarised in the following table :

Estimated number of farm cottages in County	2,081
Number of cottages inspected in terms of Section 5 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1925, and relative inspection of District Regulations	2,088
Number of houses which were found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation	1,858
Number of houses demolished or closed	—
Number of houses made fit under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926	780
Number of houses made fit without such assistance	—
Number of houses in respect of which no action was taken or which is still pending	—

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1935.

The following tabular statement gives the extent to which overcrowding was relieved during the year.

1. Number of cases of overerowding relieved as a result of action taken by the Local Authority	32
2. Number of persons concerned	238
3. Number of privately owned houses in which overcrowding has been relieved	29
4. Number of Local Authority houses in which overcrowding has been relieved	3

Overcrowding exists to a greater extent in the landward parts of the County compared with villages, but not until something is done to relieve overcrowding at farm cottages will any appreciable improvement be revealed.

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1925—SECTION 20.

Notices were served under Section 20 (1) requiring provision of a sufficient water closet in respect of 10 houses. In addition 34 houses had water closets introduced as a result of informal action.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1919 SECTION 40.

No notices were served in respect of houses requiring provision of water supply. Thirty-three houses had, however, water laid on, the service of notices not being necessary.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no registered houses in the County.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are two public slaughterhouses, viz :—one in Coldstream Burgh and one in Duns Burgh.

Private slaughterhouses are licensed at Ayton, Eyemouth (2), Eyecliffe, Greenlaw (2), Chirnside (2), Cockburnspath, Lauder (2), Coldingham, Earlston and Gordon.

Periodical inspections were made as time permitted, and generally conditions prevailing were satisfactory. All premises were lime-washed at regular intervals.

There are in all 21 slaughterers licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The factories on the Register number 150 and may be classified as follows :—

Factories with Mechanical Power :—

Gas Works	...	...	3	General Engineering	...	3
Joiners	...	...	11	Foundry	...	1
Sausage Making	...	...	5	Grain Mill	...	5
Bakers	...	...	9	Blanket Mill	...	1
Garages	...	...	15	Paper Making	...	2
Creosoting and Saw-				Boat Building	...	1
milling	...	...	8	Woollen Mill	...	1
Blacksmith	...	...	5			
Tar Macadam and Stone Crushing	...	...	...			6

Factories without Mechanical Power :—

Bakers	...	...	13	Bootmakers	...	5
Joiners	...	...	14	Watchmakers	...	6
Blacksmiths	...	...	11	Painters	...	9
Tailors	...	...	9	Hairdressers	...	7
Saddlers	...	...	2	Plumbers	...	8
Dressmakers	...	...	1			

Inspection was made of these premises at regular intervals. With few exceptions all are small and in many cases only employ one or two persons. The premises were generally found to be clean and in good order.

ACCOMMODATION FOR SEASONAL WORKERS.

Intimation was received in one instance in respect of Seasonal Workers being employed on a farm. The accommodation was satisfactory and the number of persons accommodated was 32.

SCHOOLS.

Flush closets were installed during the year at West-ruther School.

There are still a number of schools without proper sanitary accommodation, but an endeavour is still being made to deplete this number. Water supply is the principal obstacle in many cases.

BURIAL GROUNDS.

No insanitary conditions came under notice.

DAIRIES.

The Registered Dairies in the County number 111 and the number of cows at last inspection was 814.

Routine inspection was carried out, and on these occasions premises have, as a general rule, been found in a good state of cleanliness and cows clean and well groomed.

There is still a number of premises which are not in all respects up to modern requirements, milk houses being badly situated, also other structural defects in byres, but in view of the small quantity of milk retailed from these premises and handling of milk is at least of an average standard, no drastic action has been taken.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

Under the above Act 70 samples were purchased and submitted to the County Analyst. There were 22 official samples and 48 test samples. The number of samples found to be adulterated was eleven.

SUMMARY.

<i>Article.</i>		<i>No. Procured.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>
Certified Milk	...	11	8	3
T.T. Milk	... ..	6	6	—
Sweet Milk	...	28	21	7
Mince	... ..	6	5	1
Sausages	... ..	10	10	—
Black Pudding	...	1	1	—
Whisky	... ..	6	6	—
Butter	... ..	1	1	—
Sliced Sausage	...	1	1	—
		70	59	11

Regarding the adulterated samples all were test samples, and on taking official samples they were reported by the analyst to be genuine.

